

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PHIL 120A)

TIME: TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, 8:50-10:00 AM

LINC CATEGORY: M3 (ULTIMATE QUESTIONS)

OTHER CATEGORY: II.C.2 (HUMANITIES)

INSTRUCTOR: SHALAHUDIN KAFRAWI

CLASSROOM: COMENIUS 201

CONTENT:

The course explores the tasks and subject matters of philosophy, including major theories of reality, knowledge, religion, morality and social justice. Attention will be given to several classic philosophical texts as primary source readings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

At the end of the course, students are expected to achieve the following objectives:

1. to think critically on issues they encounter in daily life;
2. to discuss major philosophical issues in scholastic tradition;
3. to reflect the views of major philosophers in their daily life;
4. to discuss major thought of philosophers on reality, knowledge, ethics, and politics.

GRADING FORMAT:

1. Participation (20 points);
2. A popup quiz (10 points);
3. Mid-term exam (10 points);
4. One structured paper (3-5 pages; 10 points);
5. Research paper (7-10 pages; total of 30 points): research proposal (5 points) and first draft (5 points) of the paper are required prior to final submission (15 points);
6. Final exam (20 points);
7. A 5-point extra credit will be added to the total for those who have complete attendance.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook: 2006-2007*, pp. 26-31.

PARTICIPATION:

Students' participation is highly valued. Active participation includes any input that enables the achievement of the course objectives. It includes—but not limited to—making comments about the reading, asking questions about the reading or the themes under discussion, answering questions posed by the instructor or the class, and suggesting alternative views on the issues in class discussion. Participation in discussions on the Blackboard can be counted toward active participation.

All students are required to participate in a public lecture by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer on Thursday, January 18, 2006 at 7:30 PM. Attending a lecture(s) on philosophy, whenever applicable, can also be counted toward increasing the participation grade. Complete attendance without any form of participation indicated above will give students a participation grade of no more than four points.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are encouraged to attend all scheduled meetings for this course. An extra credit of 5 points will be awarded to those who have complete attendance. Students have the liberty to miss four classes without penalty. Those who miss more than four classes will be downgraded by four out of the total points for each missed meeting after the four absences, unless they provide the instructor with a justified reason(s) in writing and submit a written report on the reading for that specific day as a substitute.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS:

All papers—including (1) structured paper, (2) research proposal, (3) draft of research paper and (6) final research paper—should be electronically submitted through the Blackboard on or before the indicated dates. If for some reason there is a problem with electronic submissions, the printed copy of the paper should be submitted to the instructor's office on the same day. Late submissions will be downgraded for that specific assignment by one point per day.

Students are encouraged to rewrite the structured paper. Final research paper cannot be rewritten. The rewritten paper is due within a week after the paper is electronically distributed. Since the grades of the rewritten paper can be better or worse than the originally submitted paper, the best grade will be counted toward the final.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Phone: (610) 861-1628
E-mail: skafrawi@moravian.edu
Classroom: Comenius 201
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 10:45-11:15 AM;
Wednesday: 9:30 AM-12:30 PM;
or by appointment.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AVAILABLE AT MORAVIAN BOOKSTORE:

Descartes, Rene. *Discourse on Method and Meditations*. Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 2006.
Wolff, Robert Paul. *About Philosophy*. 9th edition. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS AVAILABLE AT REEVES' LIBRARY RESERVE:

Heidegger. *Being and Time*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1962. Pp. 49-63.
Lao Tzu. *Tao Teh King: Sayings of Lao Tzu*. Translated with commentary by C. Spurgeon Medhurst. Wheaton: Theosophical Publishing House, 1975. Pp. 21-49.
Morewedge, Parviz. *The Metaphysica of Avicenna (ibn Si>na>): A Critical Translation-Commentary and Analysis of the Fundamental Arguments in Avicenna's Metaphysica in the Da>nish*

Na>ma-i> 'Ala>'i> (The Book of Scientific Knowledge). London: Routledge, 1973. Pp. 47-68.

Plato. *Republic*. In Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns, eds. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato: Including Letters*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002. Pp. 747-72.

Sankara. *A Thousand Teachings: The Upadesasabari of Sankara*. Translated by Sengaku Mayeda. Albany, SUNY Press, 1992. Pp. 103-35.

FINAL GRADE

Students will accumulate the points—there will be no conversion of points into grades—until the end of the semester. Below is the table of point conversion for the final grade:

Points	Final Grade	4-point conversion
95-100	A	4
90-95	A-	3.7
87-90	B+	3.3
84-87	B	3
80-84	B-	2.7
77-80	C+	2.3
74-77	C	2
70-74	C-	1.7
67-70	D+	1.3
64-67	D	1
60-64	D-	0.7
0-60	F	0

SCHEDULE:

No.	Date	Topic and Reading	Due date
1	01/16/07	Introduction: Syllabus	
2	01/18/07	What is Philosophy? 1 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 3-22.]	Public lecture by Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer
3	01/23/07	What is Philosophy? 2 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 22-43.]	
4	01/25/07	Epistemology 1: Levels of Truth [Reading: Plato, <i>Republic</i> , 747-72.]	
5	01/30/07	Epistemology 2: Cartesian System 1 [Reading: Plato, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 46-51 and Descartes, <i>Discourse on Method</i> , 1-44.]	
7	02/01/07	Epistemology 3: Cartesian System 2 [Reading: Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 45-103.]	
8	02/06/07	Epistemology 4: Cartesian System 3 [Reading: Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 45-103.]	
9	02/08/07	Preparation for Research Paper	Reflective Paper
10	02/13/07	Epistemology 5: Rationalism, Empiricism, and Kantian Synthesis	Research proposal

		[Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 61-88.]	
11	02/15/07	Video 1: The Trial of Socrates	
12	02/20/07	Metaphysics 1: What is Metaphysics? [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 98-115.]	Mid-Term Exam
13	02/22/07	Metaphysics 2: The Structure of Being [Reading: Avicenna, <i>The Metaphysica of Avicenna</i> , 47-57.]	
	02/23/07	Mid-Term	
14	02/27/07	Metaphysics 3: Daoism [Reading: Lao Tzu, <i>Tao Teh King</i> , 21-49.]	
15	03/01/07	Metaphysics 4: Mind-Body Distinction [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 115-28.]	
	03/06/07	Spring Recess; March 5-11	
	03/08/07	Spring Recess; March 5-11	
17	03/13/07	Metaphysics 5: Athman-Brahman Relation [Reading: Sankara, <i>A Thousand Things</i> , 103-35.]	
18	03/15/07	Metaphysics 6: Phenomenology [Reading: Heidegger, <i>Being and Time</i> , 49-63.]	Draft of Research Paper
19	03/20/07	Philosophy of Science 1 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 140-61.]	
20	03/22/07	Philosophy of Science 2 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 161-74.]	
21	03/27/07	Ethics 1: Ethical Theories [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 190-225.]	
22	03/29/07	Ethics 2: Feminist Critique and Practical Application [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 225-55.]	
23	04/03/07	Ethics 3: Medical Ethics [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 256-76.]	
24	04/05/07	Social and Political Philosophy 1 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 288-307.]	
25	04/10/07	Social and Political Philosophy 2 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 308-37.]	
26	04/12/07	Philosophy of Art 1 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 356-80.]	Research Paper
27	04/17/07	Philosophy of Art 2 [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 380-88 and 391-403.]	
28	04/19/07	Philosophy of Religion 1: Reason Versus Revelation [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 404-19.]	
29	04/24/07	Philosophy of Religion 2: Proofs of God's Existence [Reading: Wolff, <i>About Philosophy</i> , 420-45.]	
30	04/26/07	Concluding Remarks	

Final Exams April 30-May 4